THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 18th May 1954.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at half-past two of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

I.—POINT OF ORDER *RE* OMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE AGENDA.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" There are no questions to be answered to-day."

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" On a point of order, Sir. It is indeed regrettable that there are no questions at all to be answered to-day. We have sat for five days so far, and we had answers to only 20 questions. I believe that there are at least 300 questions more notice of which has been given by hon. Members. Yesterday there was only one question, and to-day there is no question at all. It is the prerogative of the Council to get information from the Government on several points, and hon. Members feel very strongly that there is great delay in getting answers to their questions. Under the rules the Government are given seven days' time to answer questions. I therefore request the Hon. Chairman to examine what the position is. If necessary, the rules should be properly framed for getting answers to questions as promptly as possible. I have brought this to the notice of the Hon. Chairman, and I hope he will take necessary action in consultation with the Hon. the Leader of the House."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" So far as I am concerned, the position is clear. We have sent several reminders to the departments to expedite answers to questions. I even personally wrote to the Hon. the Chief Minister some time ago and he has replied that he had sent instructions to the Chief Secretary and to all the departments concerned to send in their replies promptly. Somehow there has been very great delay in answers being furnished by the departments."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not know how it has happened that to-day there are no questions to be answered in the Council. Perhaps notice of the questions was given only recently. On the other hand, I have seen that in the other House more than 40 questions are put down everyday for answer, and still there is a large number of questions to be answered. Answers have been sent by the departments and the questions are ready as if to be answered. It is not the departments are causing too much of delay in preparing the answers. Anyhow, I shall look into the matter."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" There is delay in the departments concerned."

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, If a question is put and not answered, that question lapses if the House is prorogued. I suggest that the rules governing questions and answers may be amended. Apart from this, I do not know what will happen to the question-hour if the hon. Member Sri T. Purushotham becomes the Chief Whip of the Congress Party."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" When once the House is prorogued, everything lapses except Bills which are pending."

* SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" May I know, Sir, whether we are going to have non-official business to-morrow?"

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether we will be able to finish our business to-day. If we finish, we may perhaps adjourn the Council to-day itself."

II.—STATEMENT *RE* SUSPENSION OF THE MODIFIED SCHEME OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

* SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—" Sir, I understand that a very important pronouncement has been made about the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education this morning on the floor of the other House. May I know, Sir, whether we are also going to be treated to that information to-day? At any rate, if a statement is made here to-day, it will amount to simultaneous action taken by the Government. This House should also be respected in this manner, and that is my request to Government."

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, I like to support the request made by the hon. Member Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar. It should indeed be a wholesome convention if all questions of policy on which statements are made in the other House are stated in this House also simultaneously. I believe, Sir, that there should be no discrimination between the other House and this House, and I request the Hon. the Minister for Education to make in this House also a brief statement on the dropping of the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, it was my privilege to have raised this point. I request the Hon. the Education Minister to make a statement. (At this stage the Hon. the Chief Minister was seen entering the House.) Now that the Hon. the Chief Minister has come, I request him to make the statement. After all, in the previous Government, it was the Chief Minister who made the statement on all important matters. The Hon. the Education Minister, or preferably the Hon. the Chief Minister, will kindly make a statement new in this House."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members are aware that a statement has been already made on the floor of the Assembly. A request has been made that the statement should be repeated here as this House also is